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THE HEALTH OF VENTNOR 1965

THE VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT

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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the report of

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1965

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor Mrs. F.E. Ingram

Councillors: Miss D.L. Lake, Miss B.E.M. Saunders, G.F.J. Rendall, A.H. Worley, A.E. Payne, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

D.W. Quantrill, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M.& H., D.(Obst.).R.C.O.G.

Office :- County Hall, Newport, I.W.
Telephone :- NEWPORT 2261

Public Health Inspector

E.H. Evans
A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk

Mrs. D. Morris

Rodent Operative

Mr. R. Norman

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health For the Year Ended 31st December, 1965

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ventnor Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1965 in accordance with the direction of the Minister of Health.

The birth rate continued to be a little above the rate for England and Wales and the infant mortality rate of 10.8 compared favourably with the national figure of 19.9. Out of 85 births 7 were illegitimate.

Coronary thrombosis, stroke and cancer continued to be the main causes of death. During the year steps were taken to provide tests for detecting certain types of cancer in women in the early stages. When this scheme becomes fully established deaths from cancer in women in the Isle of Wight should be significantly reduced. Local doctors are specially interested in this new method of prevention.

There were no deaths from infectious diseases. There was only one case of tuberculosis notified. No measles cases were reported but this was not a year in which measles occurred in epidemic form. Measles will, of course, continue to return periodically unless some effective and acceptable method of immunisation becomes available. Reports received during the year suggested that this may be achieved in the not too distant future. There were also indications that a successful vaccine against german measles is also emerging.

Clean food continued to be one of the main objectives of the Health Department. In a seaside resort food hygiene is of paramount importance. During the season there are factors such as warm weather, maximum pressure on kitchen facilities and staff problems which create a situation in which food contamination and food poisoning are more liable to occur. No outbreaks, however, occurred during the year and hoteliers and other food handlers in this district have been particularly co-operative in this respect. Visits to premises revealed above average standards of food hygiene in most instances but in others there was still room for improvement.

It is becoming more and more apparent that clean food is not merely a matter of common sense and good intentions. A certain amount of expert knowledge is also required and for this reason courses in food hygiene are now held each winter. Last winter fifteen from the Ventnor district passed the St. John's Ambulance Brigade certificate in this subject and at the end of the year a more advanced course leading to the certificate of the Royal Society of Health was introduced.

While performing the duties of School Medical Officer in the Ventnor district I was pleased to note the high standards of health amongst the school children. There were certainly no signs of neglect, in fact a minority suffered from "under neglect" caused

/by

by over anxious parents. Children of this group have insignificant minor ailments for which their lives are unnecessarily restricted. Such cases can usually be dealt with by allowing time to talk to the parents and to give the necessary guidance and reassurance.

It will be seen, therefore, that the health of the district remains good and compares favourably with anywhere. This is not surprising in view of the clean air, the sunshine and the proximity to the sea. Furthermore, in such a hilly area, few except the car-bound and the house-bound (e.g. the television addicts) suffer from lack of exercise.

My thanks are again due to the staff of the Department for their continued efficient work and loyal support.

The encouragement and support of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee has greatly helped me in my task.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Quantrill.

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS

1. GENERAL

Total hours of sunshine during 1965	1809.3 hours
Total rainfall during 1965	37.41 inches
Area in acres	3,562
Number of inhabited houses (at 31.3.66)	2,231
Rateable value (at 1.4.65)	£242,626
Sum representated by 1d. rate (1964/65)	£940

2. VITAL

Population (Registrar General's estimate) 6240

Births	M.	F.	Total
Number of live legitimate births	44	41	85
Number of live illegitimate births	4	3	7
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			14.7
Comparative factor (births)			1.45
Comparative birth rate			21.3
Live birth rate per 1,000 in England and Wales			18.0
Number of legitimate stillbirths	-	1	1
Number of illegitimate stillbirths	-	-	Nil
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			10.8
Total live and stillbirths			93
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			7.6

Deaths			
Total number of deaths	62	81	143
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			22.9
Comparative factor (deaths)			0.57
Comparative death rate			13.1
Death rate in England and Wales			11.5
Number of deaths of legitimate infants under one year of age	1	-	1
Number of deaths of illegitimate infants under one year of age	-	-	Nil
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			10.8
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			10.8
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)			19.0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			10.8
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			10.8
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			21.5
Maternal deaths (including abortion)			Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	- (-)	- (-)
Tuberculosis, other...	- (-)	- (-)
Syphilitic disease	- (1)	- (-)
Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)
Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)
Meningococcal Infections	- (-)	- (-)
Acute Poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)
Measles	- (-)	- (-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	- (-)	1 (-)
Malignant neoplasm - Stomach	- (-)	- (2)
" " - Lung and bronchus ...	7 (2)	1 (-)
" " - Breast	- (-)	3 (5)
" " - Uterus	- (-)	- (-)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	9 (3)	11 (4)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	- (1)	- (-)
Diabetes	1 (-)	1 (1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8 (5)	17 (11)
Coronary disease, angina	18 (14)	12 (6)
Hypertension with heart disease	1 (-)	3 (2)
Other heart disease...	5 (3)	5 (9)
Other circulatory disease	5 (5)	6 (5)
Influenza	- (-)	- (-)
Pneumonia	2 (1)	1 (1)
Bronchitis	2 (5)	7 (1)
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1 (-)	1 (1)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	- (-)	1 (1)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	- (-)	2 (-)
Nephritis, nephrosis	- (-)	- (-)
Hyperplasia of prostate	- (1)	- (-)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- (-)	- (-)
Congenital malformations	- (1)	- (-)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	2 (2)	6 (6)
Motor vehicle accidents	- (-)	- (-)
All other accidents...	- (1)	3 (1)
Suicide	1 (-)	- (1)
Homicide and operations of war	- (-)	- (-)
	62 (45)	81 (57)

Note: Figures for 1964 are entered in brackets.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year. No other notifications were received.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Total number of outbreaks	NIL
Number of cases	NIL
Number of deaths	NIL

Infectious and other Diseases - From the weekly returns of head teachers:

German measles	3
Chickenpox	31
Mumps	1
Ringworm	1
	36

Food and Drugs Act, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1965	7
Number of samples found to be positive for Tubercle Bacillus	-
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	-

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Salisbury Gardens,
Ventnor, I.W.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Ventnor Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first full year's report of the Public Health Inspector's work in the Urban District and I most sincerely express my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. D.W. Quantrill, for the opportunity of presenting it as a separate item.

Emphasis has again been on Food Hygiene and the education of food handlers and a further course of instruction enabled 15 more hoteliers to obtain St. John Ambulance Association's Certificate in Food Hygiene. My thanks are due to Dr. Quantrill and to Mr. Tubb, Chief Public Health Inspector, Sandown/Shanklin, for acting as Examiners.

During the latter part of the year, special investigations were carried out under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, concerning lighting of premises, and it would appear that much improvement will be needed should the Ministry of Labour introduce the expected Lighting Regulations.

The Rodent Control Contract Scheme proved to be an important part of the Department's work, the number of members slowly increases and from a Public Relations point of view must be very useful. Thanks are due to Mr. R. Norman, the Rodent Operative, for the very able way in which he conducts this side of the work, and indeed for all the work that he carries out.

My thanks are due also to Mrs. D. Morris for the part she plays in running the office side, as I am of necessity out of the office for most of the day, she has to be on hand to deal with enquiries, as well as carry on the normal work routine.

Finally, may I express my thanks to the members of the Council for their consideration in every way, and to acknowledge the help I have received from my fellow officers whenever I have had occasion to ask them for their advice or assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERIC H. EVANS,

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Summary of Inspections and Visits

Premises inspected on complaint	324
Nuisances observed	317
Re-visits	799
Caravans	273
Roofs repaired	31
Drains cleared and cleansed	106
Drains renewed and relayed	53
Dampness remedied	9
Other nuisances abated	106
Routine visits	313
Holiday Flats (Inspection on complaint & routine visits)	89
Visits to Licensed Premises	30
Visits to Applicants for Council House Accommodation	88
Visits re Private Water Supplies	128
Houses without Water Supply	3
	2669

Statutory Notices

	Served	Complied with by owner
Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 39	3	1
" " " Section 17	1	1
" " " Section 18	1	1
" " " Section 93	1	1

Informal Notices

	Served	Complied
Housing Act	2	-
Public Health Act, 1936	31	25
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act,1963	1	-

In addition to written notices and requests for nuisances to be abated, a total of 277 visits were made to owners, agents or interested parties with requests for appropriate action.

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Public Supply

The Urban District is supplied by the Isle of Wight Water Board from the following sources :-

(a) A deep well in the Waterworks, Mitchell Avenue, Ventnor.
(b) A supply of surface water from the Railway Tunnel.
(c) A spring at Wroxall.
(d) Two springs at St. Lawrence.

The water is chlorinated but not filtered and is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

The sampling of water at source and during treatment is the responsibility of the Water Board.

Copies of the Public Health Laboratory reports are supplied to the County Medical Officer and Public Health Inspector.

The total number of samples notified to the Public Health Inspector were as follows :-

Total taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
109	102	7

(b) Private Supplies

Several properties have private supplies of drinking water and these have been regularly checked and sampled with the following results :-

Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
48	33	15

Two of the properties where periodical bad samples were obtained have now discontinued the supply, and are now connected to a mains supply. It is anticipated that a third property who use a suspected supply will be connected to the mains supply before the 1966 season.

Private Swimming Pools

There are two private swimming pools in the district which have been regularly supervised and sampled with the following results:-

Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
32	23	9

In each case of a bad sample being obtained it transpired that the chlorination plant had not been functioning properly, and steps were taken to impress on the persons responsible that the chlorination system must be maintained and operated in accordance with the makers' recommendation and with due regard to the number of users.

Children's Paddling Pool

This pool has again proved very popular, regular sampling has been carried out, in addition frequent checks were made with a chloroscope.

Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
14	12	2

This pool is chlorinated twice daily and during the height of the season and during bright weather this is increased to three times daily.

Housing Statistics

No. of houses found unfit and represented under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957	19
No. of demolition orders made	Nil
No. of undertakings to carry out repairs accepted	1
No. of houses demolished	Nil
No. of houses made fit as a result of undertakings given by owner	1
No. of premises made fit as a result of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	1

Council Housing

The Council own 224 houses and flats.

Caravan Sites

There are two holiday caravan sites in the Urban area, the maximum number of caravans being 35.

The number of visits to these and other caravans are given in the statistical section of the report.

One of the sites, due to the contours of the ground and other causes is a difficult one to operate and requires fairly regular visits.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

At the end of the year food premises in the district were classified as follows :-

Greengrocers	6
Bakehouses	4
Cafes, Snack Bars & Kiosks	42
Butchers	5
Sugar Confectioners	9
Flour Confectioners	7
Dairies	2
Fried Fish Shops	3
Grocers	27
Licensed Premises (other than Private Hotel licenses)	18

Food Premises Registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955

Registered for Ice Cream

Grocers	17
Confectioners	10
Kiosks	8
Fishmongers	1
Cafes, etc.	26

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of loose ice cream.

Registered for preparation of Sausages

Butchers	3

Registered for Preservation of Food (by cooking)

Grocers	2
Fried Fish Shops	3
Fishmongers	1

Premises registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1959

Dairies	2

Unsound Food

Unsound food surrendered for destruction included :-

8 lbs. tinned chopped pork	24 boxes mandarins
4 lbs. tinned jellied veal	90 pork pies
16 lbs. tinned pressed ham	4 veal pies
20 lbs.8 Ozs. tinned corned beef	4 pkts. puffed pastry
104 lbs.9 Ozs. cooked ham	76 units ice cream
68 lbs. pork sausages	4 cartons chocolate biscuits
2 lbs.3 ozs. tinned sausages	102 ice cream wafers
74 lbs. tinned tomatoes	22 pkts. biscuits
12 lbs.4 ozs. tinned cherries	5 pkts. cornflakes
5 kilo tinned apricot pulp	13 pkts. nuts

All unsound food is stained and buried on the Refuse Tip under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Work carried out under Food & Drugs Act, 1955 and Food Hygiene Regulations 1960

Number of Food Inspections	111
Inspection of Food Premises	402
Number of Contraventions found	173
Number of notices (Verbal and Written)	168

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960

Walls and ceiling repaired and cleansed	112
Number of W.C's. repaired or replaced	41
Equipment replaced	61
New sinks	29
Yards re-paved	11
New dustbins	40

Food Sampling

The Isle of Wight County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority, is responsible for sampling, and I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the following information regarding samples taken during the year.

Article Sampled	No.Taken	No.Unsatisfactory	Remarks
Marmalade (Seville Orange)	1	-	-
" (grapefruit)	1	-	-
Jam (strawberry)	1	-	-
" (raspberry seedless)	1	1	Label unsatisfactory
Aspirin Tablets	2	-	-
Braised Steak	1	-	-
Pork Pies	3	3	Borderline Quality (Manufacturers advised)
Milk (A)	11	-	
" (B)	20	3	1 deficient milk fat 2 deficient solids not fat (Producers advised)
TOTALS:	41	7	

(A) - Keeping quality
(B) - Compositional Quality

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

Statistics have been supplied to the Ministry of Labour for the year ending December, 31st 1965 in accordance with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Annual Reports Order, 1964.

The details contained in the Prescribed Form (O.S.R.14) are as follows :-

TABLE A

Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during year	Total Number registered at end of year	Number of General Inspections
Offices	2	17	-
Retail Shops	2	59	4
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	6	-
Catering Establishments open to the public	38	46	46
Canteens	-	-	-
Fuel Storage Depots	3	3	-

TABLE B

No. of visits of all kinds by Inspector to registered premises	135

TABLE C

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace:-

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	77
Retail Shops	211
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	25
Catering Establishments open to the public	368
Canteens	42
Fuel Storage Depots	7
TOTAL	730

Total Males 223
Total Females 507

The following Regulations are in force at the present time all of which are designed to improve standards for staff employed in premises affected.

The Prescribed Dangerous Machines Order	1964
Information for Employees Regulations	1965
First Aid Order	1964
Washing Facilities Regulations	1964
Sanitary Convenience Regulations	1964

/During

During the months of November and December investigations were made as to the lighting of premises under Section 8 of the Act, when it was found that few of the offices and shops measured up to the recommended standard suggested by the Illuminating Engineering Society.

The Ministry have the question of lighting regulations under consideration.

RODENT CONTROL

Two hundred and ninety-three premises were treated during the year, the Rodent Operative making 3,641 visits including routine inspections. The annual testing and treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out during the year, no infestations were found.

Contract Scheme

The Contract Scheme relating to business premises is now well established and at the end of the year sixty business premises were under contract.

Infestations

Complaints of insect pests included :-

Earwigs	2
Flies	2
Cockroaches	8
Woodlice	2
Fleas	2
Ants	5
Wasps' Nests	23

Treatment and eradication of the above insect pests were carried out by modern insecticides. A charge of 5/- was levied in respect of destruction of wasps' nests.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The refuse collection and disposal service is under the control of the Surveyor and a weekly collection of domestic refuse is maintained except during the season when a twice weekly collection is made from hotels and boarding houses.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping in a disused lime quarry and during 1965 a further tip in Wroxall was brought into use.

Frequent visits to both tips have been made by the Rodent Operative, which has kept the rodent population down to a minimum. Regular insecticidal spraying is also carried out and no complaints of fly infestation were reported.

Sewerage

In a hilly district such as Ventnor it is impracticable to provide a central sewage disposal plant.

The outlying village of Wroxall is sewered to a disposal plant, the effluent being discharged after treatment into an adjoining ditch.

During the year the Council took over responsibility for a former private disposal plant in the St. Lawrence area.

Otherwise the St. Lawrence area is served by (a) cesspools; (b) modern septic tank systems.

Bonchurch at the eastern end of the district is served by (a) cesspools; (b) modern septic tank systems. One large establishment has a private sewer outfall to the sea.

Ventnor sewage is discharged to the sea from the outfalls.

The Council operates a cesspool emptying service.

Factories Act

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health :-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	-	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	22	-	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	23	NIL	NIL	NIL

2. Cases in which defects were found :-

	Found	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
		Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Outwork

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August required by Section 110 (1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)
Stuffed Toys	9	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL